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**Rural District of Lanchester**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

**for the Year 1950**

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STANLEY LUDKIN,

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

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*Durham County Press Ltd., Saddler Street, Durham*

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE,  
1950.

Chairman : Councillor J. J. Turnbull.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. Hoult.

and

All Members of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors,  
Health Department, Council Offices,  
Lanchester.

Telephones—Lanchester 5 and 6.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH  
COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As one of my first duties following my recent appointment as Medical Officer of Health to your Authority, I present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your area for the year 1950. The contents of this report have been compiled by members of your health department, and includes a summary of the work carried out, and the results achieved by the late Dr. J. G. Walker and his staff.

Dr. Walker, first appointed as your Medical Officer of Health on 1st September, 1925, held this position until his death on 2nd November, 1950, and during this 25 year period, witnessed amazing improvements in the environmental conditions and health of the community which he served, improvements which are again reflected in this year's report.

As friend of Dr. Walker, and neighbouring Medical Officer of Health for the last three years, I can appreciate the loss you must feel, and wish to take this opportunity of paying my tribute to his work.


The staff of the department wish me to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY LUDKIN,

Medical Officer of Health.



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## LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950.

#### Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

	1949	1950
Area in acres ... ..	44,243	do.
Population (Census 1931) ... ..	16,413	do.
Population (Mid-year 1949) ... ..	15,340	15,310
Number of inhabited houses according to rate		
books ... ..	4,339	4,382
Reduced Rateable value ... ..	£71,693	£72,149
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£268-12-0	£268-16-10
Births during the year ... ..	296	245
Birthrate ... ..	19.2	16.0
Deaths during the year ... ..	171	202
Deathrate (Crude) ... ..	11.1	13.19
Infantile Mortality Rate ... ..	27.0	40.0
Tuberculosis Deathrate ... ..	0.39	0.57
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Deathrate ... ..	0.32	0.39
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Deathrate ... ..	0.06	0.18
Zymotic Deathrate ... ..	Nil.	Nil.

#### Special Causes of Sickness.

There were no special causes of sickness during the year.

#### LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

The district as at present constituted came into being on April 1st, 1937 and now consists of nine parishes—Cornsay, Esh, Green-croft, Healeyfield, Hedleyhope, Lanchester, Langley, Muggleswick, and Satley.

The district has an area of 44,243 acres, and is largely agricultural, mostly dairy farming. Small urbanised areas such as Burnhope, Langley Park and Cornsay Colliery have developed around collieries and Lanchester Village itself, one of the prettiest in the County, and dating back to the Roman occupation is the intersecting point of road traffic North-South and East-West. The Local Authority headquarters are there as are the offices of various Government Departments.

#### SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND INDUSTRIES.

The chief industries are coal mining, brick and tile making, quarrying and a large amount of dairy farming; and of recent years a firm manufacturing toilet articles and another one making clothing have been established in the district.

#### SPECIAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS, EFFECTS OF OCCUPATION, ETC.

There does not appear to be any detrimental effect on the health of the population by reason of these industries. Measles was again very prevalent during the year under review. There is no statistical evidence to show that food rationing has adversely affected the health of the population. Children and infants certainly look, and in fact are in better health than at any time I have observed, and the supply of orange juice, cod liver oil and milk foods at the Welfare Centres, through the Ministry of Food, can certainly claim a large share of credit for this improvement.

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live	Legitimate	233	116	117	Birthrate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—16.0.
Births	Illegitimate	12	6	6	
	Totals	245	122	123	



		Total.	M.	F.	
Still	Legitimate	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births— 12.0.
Births	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	Totals	4	2	2	
Deaths from all causes		202	116	86	Deathrate per 1,000 of estimated resident pop- ulation—13.19.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

No. 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deathrate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	40.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				42.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	...	...	...	26.0
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under two years)	...	...	...	Nil.

Population estimated by Registrar General	...	...	15,310
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POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1950 is 15,310. This is a decrease of 30 on last year's figure. The population at the 1931 Census was 16,413 the figures for the last 10 years are given in the following table :—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Popula- tion	14,690	14,170	13,850	13,850	14,000	14,490	14,580	15,310	15,340	15,310

### BIRTHS, BIRTHRATE, ETC.

The birthrate was lower than in 1949. It was 16.0 per thousand of the population compared with 15.8 for England and Wales and 16.7 for 148 smaller towns having a population of 25,000 to 50,000. The rate for the Administrative County was 16.4. The figures for the last 10 years are given in the following table :—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Births	251	236	262	285	262	259	294	284	296	245
Rate	17.0	16.6	18.9	20.5	18.7	17.8	20.0	18.5	19.2	16.00

### SEX DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

There were 122 males and 123 females, the ratio being 1,000 males to 1008 females.

### DEATHS, DEATHRATE, ETC.

There were 202 deaths in 1950 being 31 more than the 171 of last year. The rate was 13.19 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6 whilst that for 148 smaller towns was 11.6. The rate for the Administrative County was 12.0.

The number of deaths and the rates for the last ten years is given in the following table :—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	176	176	174	153	159	158	172	155	171	202
Death-rate	11.9	12.4	12.5	11.0	11.3	10.9	11.7	10.1	11.1	13.19

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table shows the classification of causes of death over the last ten years, the tabulation being revised to relate to the classification as now adopted by the Return of the Registrar General.

# CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 10 YEARS

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1950		1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
All Causes ...	116	86	97	74	80	75	99	73	88	70	69	90	90	67	94	80	93	83	98	78
1. Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	4	2	3	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	4	2	5	2	4	1	5	2
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	2	1	—	1	2	2	1	1	1	—	2	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	1	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	2	1	2	1	5	4	—	3	4	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	3	—	3	—	3	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	12	9	13	12	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	7	11	4	10	10	9	3	16	6	4	7	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	12	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	1	1	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	13	8	13	—	10	12	17	13	9	14	9	11	11	7	10	15	1	2	12	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	15	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	19	18	28	19	19	19	42	21	22	20	15	27	20	24	24	18	26	20	21	20
20. Other heart disease ...	2	5	3	4	3	4	3	2	3	2	5	1	4	3	2	7	7	1	6	1
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Influenza ...	2	4	1	2	4	6	1	2	2	1	—	4	4	2	4	3	3	1	1	5
23. Pneumonia ...	6	4	1	5	3	2	3	2	6	3	5	3	4	3	7	3	8	6	7	2
24. Bronchitis ...	—	2	8	1	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	2	3	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	2	3	1	2	1	4	—	—	3	2	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	2	1	—	5	3	1	2	2	—	5	3	4	—	—	4	2	5	2	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	12	11	18	17	12	8	15	11	16	11	15	19	17	7	16	12	14	15	20	15
34. All other accidents ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
35. Suicide ...	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



## ZYMOTIC DEATHRATE.

There were again no deaths from the principal infectious diseases.

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	1	—	2	3	3	—	1	3	—	—
Rate	0.06	—	0.14	0.21	0.21	—	0.06	0.13	—	—

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Fortunately there were no deaths from puerperal causes during 1950. The Maternal mortality rate for the administrative County is 1.35. The rates in Lanchester Rural District for the last ten years are shown in the following table. These rates are per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still) :—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Rate	3.9	—	4.0	—	3.7	3.7	—	—	—	—

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

There were 10 deaths in infants under 1 year of age, compared with 8 last year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 40 which is high compared with 29.8 for England and Wales and 29.4 for 148 smaller towns. The rate for the Administrative County was 39. The table which follows gives the number of deaths and infant mortality rate for the last 10 years :—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	17	14	16	18	16	11	9	13	8	10
Rate	66	59	61	63	61	42	30	45	27	40

The causes of death in these children are shown in the following table.

Cause of Death.	Age.
(a) Hydrocephalus, (b) Meningitis, (c) Coli infection of Cerebral Haematoma ...	2 months.
(a) Intestinal obstruction, (b) Faecal Impaction (c) Imperforate Anus ...	5 months.
(a) Prematurity ... ..	1 hour.
(a) Prematurity ... ..	1 day.
Debility from birth due to being a premature birth ... ..	20 minutes.
General enfeeblement (Prematurity) ...	6 hours.
Atelectasis ... ..	4 hours.
Acute Bronchitis (Prematurity) ... ..	1 month.
Respiratory failure due to congenital defect of heart ... ..	1 month.
Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	1 month.

Total :—10 deaths under one year of age.

#### STILL BIRTHS.

There were 4 still births during 1950 compared with 5 last year. All these were legitimate births. This gives a rate of 0.26 per 1,000 population which is lower than that of 0.38 for 148 smaller towns. The rate for England and Wales was 0.37 per 1,000 of the population. The following table gives the rates for the last 10 years and is shown per 1,000 population and per 1,000 births :—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Still Births	5	11	4	11	4	10	5	11	5	4
Per 1,000 Population	0.34	0.77	0.29	0.79	0.28	0.69	0.34	0.71	0.32	0.26
Per 1,000 births	19.5	48.3	15.0	43.6	18.7	37.1	20.0	37.2	16.9	16.3

CANCER MORTALITY.

There were 26 deaths from cancer during 1950, 15 males and 11 females. The number of deaths from this cause and the sex is given in the following table which covers the last 10 years.

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Males	11	13	12	11	8	16	14	12	13	15
Females	7	12	9	13	13	10	11	16	12	11
Total	18	25	21	24	21	26	25	28	25	26

Cancer Deaths during 1949.

SITE OF DISEASE ACCORDING TO SEX.

MALE.				FEMALE.			
Stomach	...	...	2	Breast	...	...	3
Bronchus	...	...	1	Uterus	...	...	1
Other sites	...	...	12	Other sites	...	...	7
Total				Total			
...				...			
15				11			

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(a) Medical Officer of Health :—

JOHN G. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Offices and duties :—Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the Joint Areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils, in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health and the Sanitary Officers Order 1935.



## (b) Sanitary Inspectors :—

G. ROWE, Cert. S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors Certificate  
(Senior Inspector).

F. E. TERRY, Cert. S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors Certificate.  
50% of the above Officers' Salaries are payable from County  
Funds.

## (c) Clerk :—K. ROBERTSHAW.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A scheme is in operation where specimens of pathological material can be examined for public health officers or medical practitioners at the Central Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 5; Telephone No. Kenton 69319. Your Medical Officer of Health is available to assist on such matters with advice as to methods of collection, dispatch, etc. Water samples are sent to the above laboratories for bacteriological examination and to the County Public Analyst in other cases.

**SERVICES IN THE AREA PROVIDED BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.**

Assistance with enquiries regarding these services will be furnished at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Lanchester on request.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Langley Park	—	Alternate Thursdays ; Morning—Child Welfare ; Afternoon—Ante-Natal.
Lanchester	—	Alternate Mondays ; Morning—Ante-Natal Afternoon—Child Welfare.
Burnhope	—	Alternate Tuesdays ; Morning—Ante-Natal ; Afternoon—Child Welfare.
Cornsay Colliery & Esh Winning.		At Esh Winning Clinic, Wednesdays alternate weeks—Ante-Natal and Child Welfare,

### CONVALESCENT HOME.

E. F. Peile County Convalescent Home, Shotley Bridge; Telephone, Shotley Bridge 27 ; admits nursing mothers with their babies and children under 5 years of age.

### COUNTY MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

A domiciliary midwifery service is provided. The names and addresses of the midwives available can be obtained from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Health Visitors or from the County Medical Officer.

### HOME HELPS.

The services of home helps are provided in necessitous cases during the laying-in period of the mother. Particulars can be obtained from Health Visitors, Welfare Centres or the County Medical Officer.

### TUBERCULOSIS CARE AND AFTER CARE COMMITTEE.

The Committee is composed of voluntary workers, the work is varied and includes the provision in necessitous cases of beds, bedding, clothing and extra nourishment. Patients are assisted as far as possible to obtain better housing accommodation, in some cases by means of grant for rent assistance. The Secretary, Tuberculosis Care and After Care Committee—Mr. J. Curry, Health Department, Shire Hall, Durham, will deal with enquiries.

### WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

The County Scheme includes education of blind children, training of approved workers, treatment for prevention of blindness, etc. Information regarding the services can be obtained from the County Medical Officer or from Miss K. A. J. Robson, 8, St. Andrews Gardens, Blackhill.

### CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

Parents or relatives in charge of children or young adults who are mentally retarded or undeveloped are invited to communicate with the County Welfare Officer or the district Health Visitors.

### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The scheme provides for the systematic inspection of school children and for medical treatment of defects discovered. Sessions are held at the School Clinic, Consett, and at Durham City.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Applications for this service, which is free, should be made either to the County Medical Officer, Shire Hall, Durham, or to the District Medical Officer of Health, Council Offices, Lanchester, when arrangements will be made to perform this service.

### HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT.

These are now under the control of the Durham Hospital Management Committee. Enquiries should be made of your own Doctor. The Hospitals in this group are—Durham County, Earls House Sanatorium, Croxdale Maternity Home, Chester-le-Street Isolation, Dryburn, Crossgate, Chester-le-Street Relton, Brandon Isolation. Hospitals under Care and Maintenance are Langley Park Isolation, Gilesgate, Shincliffe Smallpox, Houghall Isolation, Blackfell Smallpox.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Since July 5th, 1948, the local health authority has provided a 24 hour ambulance service from the local headquarters :—

- (1) Dryburn Hospital, Telephone 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Durham 587.  
5 p.m. to 9 a.m. Durham 720.
- (2) For Healeyfield and Muggleswick Parishes the local headquarters are Villa Real Hospital, Consett, Telephone day and night, Consett 411.

These services after initial troubles have now got down to smooth working and appear to meet the needs of the district adequately.



## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

The Durham County Water Board supply to the area proved adequate during the year and there were no major instances of complaint.

At Butsfield Abbey Farm, the collected supply was deemed very unsatisfactory in quantity and quality, and after proving a new spring supply, a scheme was completed whereby the spring was housed, the supply piped to a storage pump house, and the supply pumped to a new high level storage tank where it gravitates to the farm and premises.

Until main schemes, especially on the West side of the district, become a realisation, many farms and cottages must rely on sundry springs and shallow wells. Samples of these continue to be taken, not that an adverse result will provide an alternative supply, but solely in order to advise the users who have no other source of supply for domestic and agricultural use.

Twelve samples of such supplies were taken during the year and three proved unsatisfactory. One of the unsatisfactory results related to a supply used by a Youth Organisation Camping Ground, and those in charge were warned to carry out sterilising measures before any of the water was used for personal purposes.

## **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

The following table gives brief details of the visits made, and variety of work performed during the year.

	Meat and Other Food Inspection and Slaughter Houses.	Meat and Other Food Shops.	Housing.	Verninous Premises.	Drainage.	Refuse Removal and Salvage.	Refuse Tips.	Sanitary Accommodation.	W.C. Conversions.	I.D. Investigation.	Farms and Cowsheds.	Milk Shops.	Factories.	Ice-cream.	Water Supplies.	Rodent Control.	Other Matters.	TOTAL.
Burnhope Peartree Holmside	3	—	138	9	33	55	11	14	3	30	—	—	5	—	1	2	18	322
Lanchester—Malton Greencroft Maiden Law	33	—	118	2	108	39	11	51	8	4	—	—	24	1	4	8	27	438
Cornsay—Quebec Hamsteels Hedleyhope & Hedleyhill	2	—	446	13	30	32	18	16	—	7	—	—	14	—	2	6	37	623
Esh Colliery	—	—	2	2	6	11	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	30
Langley Park Esh Village & Hill Top	24	2	278	13	68	61	36	66	12	17	—	6	9	3	1	8	71	675
Satley & Butsfield	—	—	74	—	24	15	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	11	—	9	136
Castleside Rowley & Knitsley	—	—	47	—	12	29	29	22	12	6	—	—	18	1	31	6	6	219
Muggleswick & Wakerley	—	—	49	—	12	20	2	12	—	—	—	—	3	—	9	—	2	109
TOTAL	62	2	1152	39	293	262	108	185	36	66	1	6	73	5	59	30	173	2552

## DRAINAGE.

At Esh Colliery an existing sewer was crushed by the extension of the colliery spoil-heap and a new diversion had to be made to avoid the heap.

Beyond the usual extensions associated with housing development schemes, the Council had no other major drainage schemes during the year.

Of private drainage schemes, Burnhopeside Hall Cottages were connected to the public sewer by a new 100 yards of drain to provide for proper sewage disposal for the houses, while at Broomshiels Hall Farm a new drainage and disposal scheme was completed for the two cottages and farm buildings.

Similar schemes were completed at Lizards Farm, Lanchester and Hagg House Farm, Esh.

All private schemes were preliminaries to the provision of modern domestic sanitary amenities to the houses concerned.

Mawsfield View, Lanchester, was connected to the public sewer following drainage improvements to the premises.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 9 conversions from the conservancy system effected during the year, each case being concerned with isolated properties as follows :—

Lizards Farm, Lanchester ; P.M. Church, Burnhope ; Hagg House Farm, Esh ; Priory Farm Cottages, Muggleswick ; West Newbiggen Farm, Lanchester ; The Lodge, Burnhopeside ; Upper Houses Farm, Lanchester ; Horseleyhope Farm, Waskerley.



86 new houses provided a similar number of additions to the number of water closets in the area, while closure of unfit houses reduced the total by 4.

Conversions and the closing of unfit properties reduced the number of conservancy closets by 43, the revised figures of sanitary accommodation in the area being :—

Water Closets	...	...	...	3,756
Ash Closets	...	...	...	575
Pail Closets	...	...	...	15
Privy Ash-pits	...	...	...	246
Privies	...	...	...	70
Chemical Closets	...	...	...	2

As has previously been stated, the majority of the conservancy type of sanitary accommodation is associated with sub-standard property, most of which is intended for closure and demolition, and now that a commencement has been made to deal with this property, the time is being brought nearer when the number of properties with that abomination, the conservancy closet, will be reduced to a minimum.

	Informal Notices.	Formal Notices.	Nuisances Abated.
Foul Conditions ... ..	32	—	25
Structural Defects ... ..	929	14	616*
Overcrowding ... ..	73	—	55
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	—	—	—
Cowsheds ... ..	—	—	—
Bakehouses ... ..	4	—	2
Slaughterhouses ... ..	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	97	—	53
Deposits of Refuse & Manure ...	83	—	80
Water Closets ... ..	34	—	29
Defective Yard Paving ...	16	—	13
Drainage Faults ... ..	144	—	93
Water Supply ... ..	37	—	21
Pigsties ... ..	1	—	1
Animals Improperly Kept ...	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	1	—	1
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	19	—	18
Food Shops ... ..	11	—	11
Vermin Infestations ... ..	18	—	18
Dust Bins ... ..	—	—	—
	1,499	14	1,036

\* Includes 14 Stat. Notices.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1950.

### 1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	649
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	1119
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses [included under subhead (1) above] which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	640
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	1103
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	196
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	279

### 2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	183
--	-----

### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

#### A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—
-----	--	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...					—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...					—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. —  
Undertakings to close houses received ... .. 137

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. 2

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. —

## 4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part VI. Overcrowding :—

(a)	1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1950... ..	27
	2.	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	27
	3.	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	162
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	19
(c)	1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	13
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	69



**Housing.****NEW HOUSES.**

During the year 86 houses were completed and occupied, the Local Authority being responsible for 81 and private individuals for the remaining 5. The location of the houses is as follows :—

*Local Authority Housing.*

Langley Park	...	...	...	...	52
Esh Winning	...	...	...	...	15
Satley	...	...	...	...	14
					—
					81
					==

*Housing by Private Individuals.*

Waskerley	...	...	...	...	1
Lanchester	...	...	...	...	1
Langley Park	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					5
					==

The most pleasing feature of the house building programme is the fact that at long last a definite move is under way to replace the 300 odd unfit houses in the Cornsay Colliery, Cornsay Village, Cowsley Cottages and East Hedleyhope areas where the houses were agreed as unfit twelve years ago. By the end of the year, 15 families had been re-housed on the Esh Winning site from these localities, and it is hoped that continuous progress will eliminate this housing blight from the area.

The Satley housing scheme, although small, enabled 14 unfit houses to be dealt with and 8 families to be re-housed from such property.

Each of these replacement houses represents a new and incomparable change of environment to a family who, for far too long have had to exist in a dwelling and location which was neither conducive to healthy or happy home life. The immediate impact on family life in the change from an unfit house to a new one can



easily be seen and imagined, but just how far reaching the accumulative beneficial effect of such a change will prove in the health and mental outlook of a family, especially with the rising generation, is not so easily assessed. It is unquestionable that more good is achieved by replacing an unfit house by a new one, than occurs in the usual tenancy change, because in the former instance, offending environment is also eliminated.

There is still the problem of much unfit property that needs replacement at Burnhope, Langley Park, Rowley, and Waskerley, and the sooner this property can be eliminated and replaced by houses in keeping with the standard that is essential for decent and comfortable family life, the sooner will be made a larger contribution to public health and happiness.

Speed of house building is the governing factor and with an outstanding need of 265 houses for Cornsay area and approximately 150 for the above-mentioned areas, indicating 415 replacement houses initially, which means something like 6 to 7 years programme for unfit houses only, at the present rate of progress. It is not a comforting thought that much of this property has to remain for such a considerable time yet, when 15 years ago it was agreed that the property had outlived its satisfactory life. To restrict as far as possible the perpetuation of much of this low standard property as living accommodation, the policy of dealing with it in one of two ways has been continued by either making closing and demolition orders or accepting a Formal Undertaking to close houses as and when they become vacant.

Formal action in this matter was as follows :—

Property concerned.	No. Houses Involved.	Formal Action Taken	No. Houses vacated 1950
1-26, Chadwick St. A, Cornsay Colliery	26	closing and demolition Orders.	—
1-3, Front Street, Satley.	3	to close ...	3
1-4, Lark Cottages, Cornsay.	4	to close ...	4
1 & 3, Marquis Houses, Satley.	2	to close and demolish.	2
1 & 3, East View, Satley.	2	to close ...	—
1½ & 2½, Prospect Cottages, Satley.	2	to close and reconstruct.	1
North Cottage, East Butsfield.	1	to close ..	1
1, Rowley Bank, Castleside.	1	to close ...	—
Kaysburn Pumping Station, Langley Park.	1	to close ...	1
	42		12

### **Civil Building Control.**

The reduction in the number of licences issued and amount expended continued to reflect two things, that the £100 free building limit was effectively dealing with many small works of alteration and repair and that the tendency for increase in material and wages costs had not yet been felt. 29 licences involving £5,984 were issued during the year, a reduction of 10 licences and £6,802 as against the previous year. Much of this work concerns modernisation of worthwhile property and providing such facilities as hot and cold water supplies, baths, and bathrooms. It is satisfying work in that it is steadily lifting decent houses into the modernised class and thus giving a much extended life to sound structures. Coincident with this work, general overhaul and repair appear to be automatic and generally gives a completeness of result in structural improvement.

### **Overcrowding.**

There were 40 known cases of overcrowding during the year, but 13 of these were abated, 6 being re-housed by the Local Authority, the other 7 families having found other accommodation. It is not accepted that the balance of 27 cases at the end of the year is the true figure of overcrowding, and until it is expedient to carry out a proper survey, the opinion is held that the actual figure is in excess of the figure quoted. Admittedly, there are several degrees of overcrowding which call for solution and it is hoped that with the especially difficult cases, circumstances will allow for their abatement in the not too distant future.

It is already known that the replacing of unfit houses will resolve many cases of overcrowding in addition to eliminating the unsavoury conditions already referred to, since a great many of the sub-standard houses are of the small type often with only one or two small bedrooms.

**Tenancy Changes.**

The procedure governing the tenancy of Council houses whereby inspection of the occupied premises and furnishings is made to ensure suitability from the point of view of care and cleanliness, necessitated 169 inspections during the year. Disinfestations carried out as a result of such inspections numbered eight and thus further potential trouble from the spread of infestation was avoided, whereas without such inspection, there could only result a multiple of the cases of infestation revealed.



**FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

The following tables give the main facts relative to the factories in the area :—

Trade.	With Power.	Without Power.	Total.
Alloy Reclamation ... ..	—	1	1
Agricultural Contractor ...	1	—	1
Bakeries ... ..	2	—	2
Blacksmiths ... ..	1	1	2
Benzol Recovery ... ..	1	—	1
Boot Repairers ... ..	1	2	3
Brick and Pipe Works ... ..	2	—	2
Builders Yards ... ..	—	7	7
Clothing Manufacture ... ..	1	—	1
Cosmetics Manufacture... ..	1	—	1
Ice-Cream Manufacture ... ..	2	—	2
Joiners ... ..	3	2	5
Motor Repairers... ..	5	6	11
Paint Mixing ... ..	—	2	2
Printing ... ..	—	1	1
Potato Crisps ... ..	1	—	1
Sausage Makers ... ..	9	—	9
Sawmills ... ..	3	—	3
Tailoring ... ..	—	2	2
	33	24	57

**INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.**

Premises.	NUMBER OF :		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories ... ..	48	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	48	—	—

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars.	Number of defects.			Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation				
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	—	—	—



## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The year under review was unusual in some respects beginning with the continuous cold spell which prevailed at the beginning of the year. This necessitated increased heating needs with the result that an increase in the total amount of refuse was automatic. Further, so much low-grade fuel was being used domestically that the position was further aggravated. Again, it was noticeable that due to this type of fuel and inefficient ranges that there was considerable incomplete combustion of the fuel which naturally added to the weight of refuse to be removed. The time for more efficient grates in many houses is long overdue, which in turn would be more economical in solid fuel useage, incidentally reduce atmospheric pollution through smoke, and ultimately produce a great reduction in refuse yield.

Increasing costs of material and labour were again noticeable and all contributed to reflect themselves in the annual increase in cost per premise from 30/5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 33/6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

In spite of this, there was a minimum of complaint from inhabitants of the manner in which the work was carried out, and be these complaints justified or otherwise, they are a fair guide to the general performance of the work of cleansing.

### Ash-bin Renewal Scheme.

During the year 24 bins were supplied to Owners at cost, and thereby is sustained the principle of avoiding having decrepit refuse containers associated with the work of public cleansing.

### Rodent Control.

The following table gives a factual picture of the work carried out during the year in dealing with rodent infestations. It is difficult to do all we would wish in this work with only a part-time operator available, especially in the field of inspection, for infestations as against waiting notification of a complaint. This position has already been ventilated and it is expected that with a re-arrangement of duties, the operator will be able to devote more time to inspection work than formerly.

	No. of Points Baited			Poison Takes				Est. Kill.
	P.B.	P.B.	P.	W't (ozs.)	C.	P.	NT.	
1, Prospect Terrace, Lanchester	4	4	1	2	—	1	—	5
North Terr., Cornsay Coll. Mice	Trapping			—	—	—	—	2
North Terr., Cornsay Coll. Mice	Trapping & small			poison	bait pts.			6
Church School, Lanchester ...	6	6	6	12	3	—	3	30
3, Whitehouse Av., Burnhope ...	Investigation			n of Complaint			—	
	no trace			s found				
19, Langley Av., Burnhope ...	4	4	4	4	—	2	2	10
Refuse Tip, Lanchester ...	9	9	8	6	—	3	5	15
Refuse Tip, Lanchester ...	23	23	23	36	4	10	9	90
Meadow Lea, Lanchester ...	10	10	6	4	—	2	4	10
Red House, Knitsley ...	30	25	23	32	—	16	7	80
Refuse Tip, Knitsley ...	5	5	5	10	—	5	—	25
Hownes Gill, Rowley ...	18	17	17	18	—	9	8	45
Sewage Works, Lanchester ...	25	25	20	12	—	6	14	30
42-52, Esh Hillside, Langley Park ...	Investigation			n carried out after				
	complaint			nt—no evidence				
West End Bakery, Langley Park	17	14	12	4	—	4	8	10
33, Quebec St., Langley Park ...	5	5	5	6	1	1	3	15
Sewage Works, Peartree...	7	7	7	8	—	4	3	20
Sewage Works, Burnhope ...	32	32	32	36	—	18	14	90
Waskerley Village ...	25	27	27	44	4	14	9	110
4, Kingsway, Langley Park ...	8	8	1	3	—	1	—	7
25-31, Beech Grove, Burnhope ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Nook, Lanchester ...	18	18	16	10	—	5	11	25
1, Sycamore Terr., Lanchester ...	Investigation			n carried out only				
	no evidence							
Mount Pleasant, Lanchester ...	ditto							
45, Finings Av., Langley Park ...	4	Treatment abandoned			— no			
		evidence of vermin						
Refuse Tip, Castleside ...	7	7	4	6	—	3	1	15
Council Offices, Lanchester ...	7	7	—	Treatment abandoned				
33, Quebec Street, Langley Park	Investigation			n only—no treatment				
	necessary							
West End Bakery, Langley Park	22	22	13	18	4	1	8	45
West End Bakery, Langley Park	17	9	9	26	5	3	1	65
Refuse Tip, Lanchester ...	17	17	14	16	2	4	8	40
North Terr., Cornsay Colliery ...	Investigation			n only—no treatment				
	necessary							
Second Sewer Treatment ...	274	274	274	195	90	11	173	488
Totals ...	599	577	527	408	113	123	291	1278

**Milk Supply.**

The majority of the milk now supplied to consumers in the area is either raw tuberculin tested or heat-treated milk, although there still remains a few producer/retailers who continue to retail loose milk from the hand can in spite of the fact that the obtaining of glass bottles is not an unsurmountable difficulty. As this type of retailing is taking place in an area where the bulk of distribution is as aforesaid, it is difficult to see why legislation still permits the hand can method of distribution. A further unsatisfactory feature is the practice of some producer/retailers who, not having a sufficient supply of raw milk, purchase a bulk supply of heat-treated milk and sell it by the hand can method as ordinary milk. This obvious defeat of the advantages of heat-treated milk is a direct contradiction of safety provisions, which, if prohibited could cause no inconvenience to those concerned.

**Meat and Food Inspections.**

With the continuation of the meat supply from the area slaughter-house at Consett, the bulk of the inspections have been confined to dealing with foodstuffs at the point of distribution. The record of such inspections is shown in the schedule.



## SCHEDULE OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

COMMODITY.	No.	CAUSE.	WEIGHT. (lbs.)
Beef ... ..	1	Bone Taint ... ..	20½
Mutton ... ..	1	Black Spot ... ..	44
Bacon ... ..	1	Decomposition, Bone Taint and Maggots ... ..	73
Ham ... ..	1	Decomposition ... ..	9½
Sausage ... ..	1	Sour and Mouldy ... ..	5¼
Pork Brawn ... ..	1	Decomposition ... ..	2
Spam ... ..	1	Decomposition ... ..	¾
Tinned Meats ... ..	79	Decomposition & Blown Tins ...	167½
Tinned Fish ... ..	10	Blown and Punctured Tins ...	8¾
Tinned Vegetables ... ..	92	Blown, Punctured & Leaky Tins	107½
Tinned Milks ... ..	51	Damaged and Blown Tins ...	49
Tinned Marmalade ... ..	3	Damaged Containers ... ..	4
Tinned Jam ... ..	6	Blown Tins ... ..	7
Sauce (Bottles) ... ..	11	Mouldy ... ..	5½
Tinned Fruits ... ..	69	Blown, Punctured & Leaky Tins	89
Dried Fruits ... ..	1	Heavy Infestation of insects ...	41½
Flour ... ..	1	Fusted due to dampness ...	24
Cereals ... ..	1	Mites ... ..	129¼
Butter ... ..	1	Rancid and Moulds ... ..	21½
Total ... ..			332

### Clean Food Production—Bye-Laws.

The Ministry of Food Model Bye-Laws were adopted and came into operation on 19th March, 1950. They will do much to strengthen the hand of the Council in this important aspect of public health administration.

	Notified	1950		1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941	
		Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.
Scarlet Fever	...	47	35	59	58	90	57	46	39	11	11	6	5	21	18	37	25	37	25	16	16
Diphtheria	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	5	5	3	3	11	11	14	14	9	12	12	12
Erysipelas	...	5	3	4	—	7	2	9	2	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	...	12	6	14	4	16	2	32	9	9	2	12	3	5	—	8	1	—	—	4	—
Dysentery	...	20	11	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Enteric & Paratyphoid	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	222	—	244	1	184	3	181	3	153	2	76	—	63	—	96	—	23	—	133	—
Whooping Cough	...	79	—	42	—	67	1	40	—	25	—	14	—	7	—	6	—	9	—	22	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	2	2	—	—	1	1	4	4
Polio-Myelitis...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		386	56	366	66	308	67	317	50	214	26	116	14	113	33	163	41	88	37	192	32



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a total of 386 cases of infectious diseases during 1950 compared with 366 in 1949. These figures do not include notification of cases of tuberculosis. 222 of these notifications were due to measles, whilst scarlet fever and whooping cough accounted for a further 126. This is the third highest total of notifications for some years. The table on the previous page shows the number of cases notified and the number admitted to an isolation hospital or already in an institution and covers a period of the last ten years.

### Dysentery.

An outbreak of dysentery in the junior school at Burnhope could not be identified to any specific cause although it was prevalent at the time in other areas. The spread was found to be due to a lack of personal hygiene and failure to appreciate the infectious nature of the illness. The young children were soiling their clothing at school and there being no proper ablution facilities in the form of hot water, hand infection resulted.

In turn at home the infectiousness of the outbreak was not being appreciated, with the result that further cases occurred in the members of the family.

With the co-operation of the school staff, a routine of disinfection of school sanitary accommodation and hand washing by the children was instituted, and leaflet publicity to the homes of all the children, saw the trouble subside almost as quickly as it arose. This outbreak refreshed the opinion that schools should have the sanitary accommodation and ablutions with constant hot water, sited together, since the general condition obtaining whereby the two facilities are widely separated always tends for the young of mind to forget hand washing after using the sanitary convenience.

### Scarlet Fever.

47 cases were received in 1950 compared with 59 in 1949. 35 of these cases were removed to isolation hospitals and the remainder treated at home without any untoward results. The cases were generally of a mild type and free from severe complications. There were no deaths from the disease.

### Diphtheria.

There were two notifications of this disease during the year under review, which subsequently turned out to be cases of tonsillitis, so there were no cases of diphtheria during 1950. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs to record, and credit must be given to the immunised state of the child population. The following table gives the number of cases and deaths since 1932 :—

Year.	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases Notified ...	16	26	63	48	66	91	60	7	5
Deaths ...	2	4	8	10	5	12	4	—	—

Year.	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases Notified ...	12	10	14	11	3	5	1	—	1
Deaths ...	0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Year.	1950
Cases Notified ...	—
Deaths ...	—

It will be noted that immunisation commenced in 1938 and since that year there has only been 1 death which was in a non-immunised child.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The National Health Service Act transferred the responsibility for this service from the Council to the Durham County Council. The work can be undertaken by private practitioners as well as public health officers. A special effort was again made during the year to raise the total of children immunised in the area and also to give reinforcement injections to those immunised some time ago. The results of the work during 1950 are as follows :—

Children under 5 years of age who received	
two doses of A.P.T. during 1950	246
Children between 5 and 15 years of age who	
received two doses of A.P.T. during 1951	171
Children who received a reinforcing dose during	
the year	840

The adjusted totals and percentages of immunised children in the area at the end of 1950 were :—

Under 5 years of age	570—42.3%
5—15 years of age	2,166—90.2%

## MEASLES.

This disease was again epidemic during 1950 and 222 cases were notified. This is the fourth year in succession we have had high notification figures. There were no deaths from this disease. On the whole the disease appears to have been of a mild type.

## WHOOPIING COUGH.

There were 79 cases notified in 1950 compared with 42 last year. There were no deaths.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new notifications during 1950 was 20. The following table gives the position over the last 10 years :—

Year.	Total Noti- fica- tions.	Pulmonary.	Non- Pulmonary.	Deaths.	Recovered.	Removed from Area.
1941	24	15	9	5	—	2
1942	15	10	5	6	5	4
1943	15	10	5	4	4	7
1944	14	4	10	4	3	2
1945	24	14	10	8	8	3
1946	13	10	3	7	1	5
1947	21	12	9	4	6	5
1948	20	15	5	7	—	1
1949	15	11	4	4	—	3
1950	20	14	6	6	1	5

The state of the register at the end of 1941 was 57 pulmonary and 47 non-pulmonary cases, and at the end of 1950 the corresponding figures were 56 and 47.

3 families were rehoused during the year on priority grounds—a member of each family suffering from Tuberculosis.







